



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**File No. 262**

Senate Bill No. 560

*Senate, April 12, 2001*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR THE HUSKY PLAN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the Children's Health  
4 Council, the Medicaid Managed Care Council and Infoline of  
5 Connecticut, shall develop mechanisms for outreach for the HUSKY  
6 Plan, Part A and Part B, including, but not limited to, development of  
7 mail-in applications and appropriate outreach materials through the  
8 Department of Revenue Services, the Labor Department, the  
9 Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, the  
10 Department of Children and Families and the Office of Protection and  
11 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

12 (b) The commissioner shall include in such outreach efforts

13 information on the Medicaid program for the purpose of maximizing  
14 enrollment of eligible children and the use of federal funds.

15 (c) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations,  
16 contract with qualified entities authorized to grant presumptive  
17 eligibility, severe need schools and community-based organizations for  
18 purposes of public education, outreach and recruitment of eligible  
19 children, including the distribution of applications and information  
20 regarding enrollment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. In  
21 awarding such contracts, the commissioner shall consider the  
22 marketing, outreach and recruitment efforts of organizations. For the  
23 purposes of this subsection, (1) "community-based organizations" shall  
24 include, but not be limited to, day care centers, schools, school-based  
25 health clinics, community-based diagnostic and treatment centers and  
26 hospitals, and (2) "severe need school" means a school in which forty  
27 per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students who are  
28 eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

29 (d) All outreach materials shall be approved by the commissioner  
30 pursuant to Subtitle J of Public Law 105-33.

31 (e) The commissioner shall retain an independent consultant to  
32 conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all outreach efforts for the  
33 HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B, that shall focus on enrollment in such  
34 plan rather than retention of current enrollees. Such independent  
35 consultant shall have no financial interest in such plan. The  
36 commissioner shall encourage all entities that conduct such outreach  
37 efforts to participate in such evaluation.

38 [(e)] (f) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the  
39 commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and the General  
40 Assembly on the implementation of and the results of the community-  
41 based outreach program specified in subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of  
42 this section.

43      Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Significant Cost, Significant Revenue

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Social Services

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to retain an independent consultant to evaluate the outreach efforts of the HUSKY program. The department is expected to spend approximately \$5.8 million in FY01 for HUSKY outreach and data collection efforts. The cost to evaluate these outreach efforts will depend on the scope and duration of the evaluation. Based on past experiences, such an independent consultant contract may cost from \$100,000 to \$250,000. These expenditures will be eligible for 50% reimbursement from the federal government. Funding was not included in the Governor's recommended budget for the FY02-FY03 biennium for such an evaluation.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 560

***AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR THE HUSKY PLAN.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to retain an independent consultant to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of outreach efforts in the HUSKY Plan, Parts A and B. She must encourage all entities currently doing HUSKY outreach to participate in the evaluation. The evaluation must focus on enrollment (presumably the effect outreach has had on enrollment), but not on retaining children currently enrolled. The consultant may not have a financial interest in HUSKY.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Husky Outreach***

The HUSKY Plan provides subsidized health insurance coverage to children up to age 19 living in families with incomes up to (1) 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (Part A), and (2) 300% of the FPL (Part B). Families with higher incomes can also participate but the benefits are unsubsidized. Families in Part A have no co-insurance requirements; families in Part B pay premiums and co-payments. At the end of March 2001, there were 236,121 children enrolled in Part A, and 8,024 enrolled in Part B. DSS currently funds a number of statewide outreach initiatives.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16      Nay 0